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GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF FISHERIES

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## **KATRINA/RITA 2005 FISHERIES ASSISTANCE**

April 17, 2009

### **Important Notice to Eligible Louisiana Resident Commercial Fishermen and Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers Regarding Payments for Completing Cooperative Research Surveys to Monitor Recovery of Gulf Fisheries**

According to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) trip ticket report records you may qualify to receive some level of payment if you agree to participate in a cooperative research survey designed to monitor recovery of Gulf fisheries impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The LDWF has received permission from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) to re-direct \$13.842 million from the \$52.917 million grant (NOAA Grant Number NA06NMF4540319) authorized for fisheries disaster assistance by the U.S. Congress (Public Law 109-234). Initially, this \$13.842 million was part of \$25.016 million earmarked for rehabilitating oyster bed and shrimp grounds; an activity specifically authorized under this grant. This money has now been re-directed to provide additional funding (total \$18.8 million) for cooperative research programs to monitor recovery of Gulf fisheries and will be used to compensate qualified Louisiana resident wholesale/retail seafood dealers and commercial fishermen who participate by completing cooperative research surveys. Qualified participants include:

- Louisiana resident commercial fishermen who held a valid 2008 resident commercial fisherman's license and had combined trip ticket-reported sales valued at \$5,948 or more during the three-year period September 1, 2005 - August 31, 2008. All saltwater species landings (shrimp, crab, oyster, menhaden, saltwater finfish) are included in total sales, regardless of the fisherman's parish of residence. Freshwater species landings (freshwater finfish and wild-caught crawfish) are included only if the fisherman resided in any of the 26 LDWF-identified hurricane-impacted parishes.
- Louisiana resident wholesale/retail seafood dealers who held a valid 2008 resident wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license and had combined trip ticket reported purchases valued at \$20,756 or more during the three-year period September 1, 2005 - August 31, 2008. All saltwater species landings (shrimp, crab, oyster, menhaden, saltwater finfish) are included in total sales, regardless of the wholesale/retail dealer's parish of operation. Freshwater species landings (freshwater finfish and wild-caught crawfish) are included only if the wholesale/retail dealer operation was located in any of the 26 LDWF-identified hurricane-impacted parishes.

The LDWF will administer payments to qualified resident wholesale/retail seafood dealers and resident commercial fishermen who submit **complete AND acceptable** cooperative research surveys. All survey data submitted by fishermen and wholesale/retail dealers are public records under Louisiana

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law. Under this plan, trip tickets dated during the eligible period but submitted after November 30, 2008 will not be considered for qualification.

The Department anticipates that some individuals may choose to challenge their qualifying status and a reconsideration process will be used in order to review these requests. Seafood dealers and commercial fishermen should contact the LDWF at (225) 765-2399 for information on obtaining their personal and confidential trip ticket records.

The attached tables illustrate how funds were allocated between and among resident commercial fishermen and wholesale/retail seafood dealers for cooperative research programs to monitor recovery of Gulf fisheries. They also display the qualifying criteria used to determine eligibility for payments for completed surveys. These tables should provide you with an estimate of the payment amount you may be qualified to receive.

**In order to maintain your eligibility, you must complete and return the enclosed “Cooperative Research Qualification and Certification Form”, Federal “Form W-9” and, if applicable, “Board Resolution Form” (all salmon-colored forms). These forms must be returned to the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) in the enclosed self-addressed business reply envelope. ALL APPLICABLE FORMS MUST BE RETURNED AND POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2009 TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM. ANY INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR THOSE POSTMARKED AFTER THIS DATE MAY BE CONSIDERED BUT CANNOT BE ASSURED PARTICIPATION OR PAYMENT.**

**ONCE YOU HAVE RETURNED THESE FORMS, YOU WILL SOON RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL PACKET CONTAINING THE SURVEY, DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY AND A SELF-ADDRESSED BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE TO BE USED IN RETURNING THE SURVEY. SURVEY DATA OBTAINED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE PUBLIC RECORDS.**

Any questions concerning eligibility, requests for information, etc. should be directed to the SCPDC by calling 1-800-630-3791 (toll-free) or (985) 655-1051 (local) or mailing SCPDC at P.O. Box 1240, Gray, LA 70359-9902 or visiting the SCPDC website at [www.scpdc.org/fisheriesassistance](http://www.scpdc.org/fisheriesassistance)

Sincerely,

Randy Pausina, Assistant Secretary  
Office of Fisheries

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